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ACTION #	N	00CR2, 05R/RA, 05R/SF, 04/ME			2		5	
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TOR:160722Z APR 76

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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BT

CONFIDENTIAL TUNIS 2678

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, TS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S SPEECH OF APRIL 8 ON LAW OF THE SEA  
REF: STATE 065109

1. CHARGE MET TODAY WITH TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY  
DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AHMED GHEZAL AND PROVIDED  
HIM WITH FRENCH LANGUAGE TEXT OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH.  
DURING MEETING POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL WERE MADE, WITH  
PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON REMAINING ISSUES. GHEZAL DID NOT  
COMMENT ON MARINE SCIENCE RESEARCH AND IN REGARD TO DEEP  
SEA BED REGIME MERELY NOTED TUNISIA'S DEEP INTEREST AS  
DEVELOPING COUNTRY IN HOW RESOURCES ARE SHARED. HE  
COMMENTED AT GREATER LENGTH ON DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM.  
2. GHEZAL SAID GOT STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT THERE MUST BE  
AN IMPARTIAL INTERNATIONAL ARBITER TO SETTLE LOS DISPUTES.  
GOT TOOK LOS CONFERENCE EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY AS STATE WITH  
EXTRAORDINARILY LONG COAST LINE IN CONGESTED AREA OF  
MEDITERRANEAN WHICH FELT NEED FOR GREATER SECURITY,  
PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ITS "VOISINAGE" (APPARENT REFERENCE  
TO CURRENT DISPUTE WITH LIBYA OVER OFF-SHORE OIL).  
3. GHEZAL SAID THAT GOT WOULD GIVE CAREFUL STUDY TO  
SECRETARY'S SPEECH. WHILE OUTCOME OF LOS CONFERENCE  
OF REAL IMPORTANCE TO TUNISIA AND ITS BASIC POSITION WOULD  
HAVE TO BE DETERMINED BY ITS OWN SELF-INTEREST, IT APPEARED  
FROM DESCRIPTION OF MAIN POINTS OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH  
THAT USG AND GOT DID NOT DIFFER ON ESSENTIALS. GHEZAL  
NOTED THAT GOT'S LEADING LOS EXPERT, AMBASSADOR KEDADI,  
WAS IN NEW YORK FOR LOS CONFERENCE. CHARGE SAID WE WERE  
AWARE OF THAT AND FELT SURE USUN IN TOUCH WITH KEDADI  
(TUNIS 1672). FINALLY, GHEZAL NOTED THAT GOT SHARED VIEW  
THAT IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON LOS  
TREATY BE CONCLUDED SWIFTLY. KING

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TUNISIA